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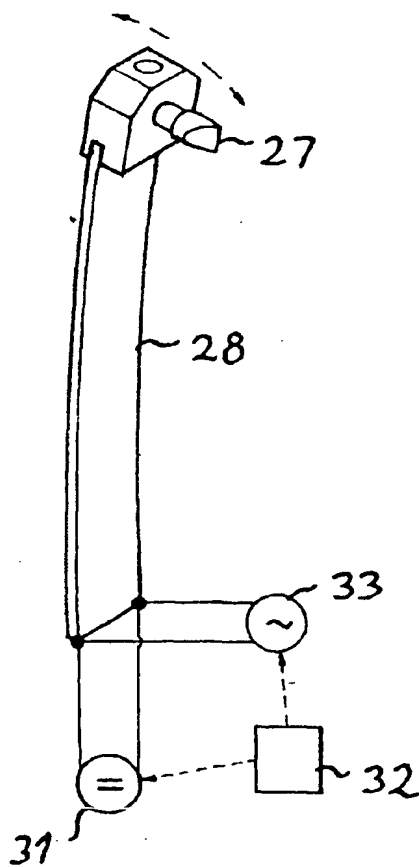
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(54) Title: **AN APPARATUS AND A METHOD FOR CLEAVING THIN RODS**



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for cleaving thin rods of glass or quartz comprises a rod cleaving blade (27) and a body (28) carrying the blade. The body is of a material varying its length through application of electric and/or magnetic fields therein. Driving means (31, 33) are adapted to achieve a relatively steady movement of the blade towards a desired cleaving point and a relatively small-amplitude vibratory component of movement towards and away from the cleaving point superimposed to the relatively steady movement by influencing said body electrically and/or magnetically. A driving means is adapted to make the blade vibrate with a frequency below 1 kHz during the cleaving operation.

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